

The practice of top-dressing of pasture land has extended considerably during the last few years. The first year of record, 1924-25, gives for the whole State 67,124 acres as being top-dressed with 4,080 tons of Artificial Fertilisers and the latest year 1928-29 --250,413 Acres with 13,029 tons of Fertilisers. In order to ascertain the effect of this new departure on the carrying capacity of the land the annual strength of the sheep Flocks has been noted in those localities where top-dressing has been rapidly extending and very gratifying increases in the flocks are observed. Whilst it is not definitely certain that top-dressing is the reason for this increase in the number of sheep it is reasonable to conclude that it has been a principal factor in bringing about the increases noted in the following localities of the State.:-

PARTICULARS OF ACRES TOP-DRESSED AND NUMBER OF SHEEP FOR PRINCIPAL DISTRICTS.

Selected Districts.	Acres top-dressed.					Number of sheep as at December 31st. each year.				
	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928
	ac.	ac.	ac.	ac.	ac.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
D.C. Onkaparinga	4,249	6,645	7,768	8,275	8,702	15,169	16,894	18,250	18,327	18,455
D.C. Barossa	375	1,066	1,029	1,699	2,395	8,300	9,417	12,144	14,481	15,343
D.C. Talunga	1,346	2,016	4,024	4,073	4,565	13,783	15,667	19,623	18,228	23,285
D.C. Encounter Bay	2,058	2,791	3,849	5,536	6,148	18,780	20,098	22,460	24,448	24,879
D.C. Mt. Barker	3,778	5,207	6,698	8,474	8,829	11,348	14,449	18,094	23,096	30,399
D.C. Yankalilla	610	2,063	4,245	5,149	9,782	42,915	52,539	53,763	59,125	64,284
D.C. Port Elliot	802	1,783	2,022	4,367	5,128	30,835	32,297	37,568	39,671	41,636
D.C. Angaston	850	1,669	2,143	4,333	4,687	26,062	27,164	28,204	30,736	30,796
Hd. Jutland	2,148	2,199	2,299	3,233	4,437	35,370	39,858	43,605	44,468	45,250
Hd. Tatiana	681	2,034	2,529	5,034	7,907	63,066	61,153	65,488	62,851	69,032
Hd. Grey	1,238	2,707	4,312	5,874	8,629	42,082	52,622	49,194	56,556	62,428
Hd. Binnun	3,730	5,414	8,628	9,395	12,865	44,550	45,650	48,132	49,099	51,733
Hd. Jessie	3,055	5,792	7,059	9,349	9,375	39,940	38,244	40,139	41,381	43,839
Total	24,920	41,386	56,605	74,791	93,449	392,700	426,052	456,664	482,467	521,359
State Totals	67,124	123,657	162,355	209,922	250,413					

Statistical Office, Adelaide.
15th October, 1929.

W. L. JOHNSTON
GOVERNMENT STATIST &
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